

Improve Statewide Mobility of People, Goods, Information, and Energy Tollgate #1

1. Key indicators that will provide the best evidence to the citizen that this result is being achieved.

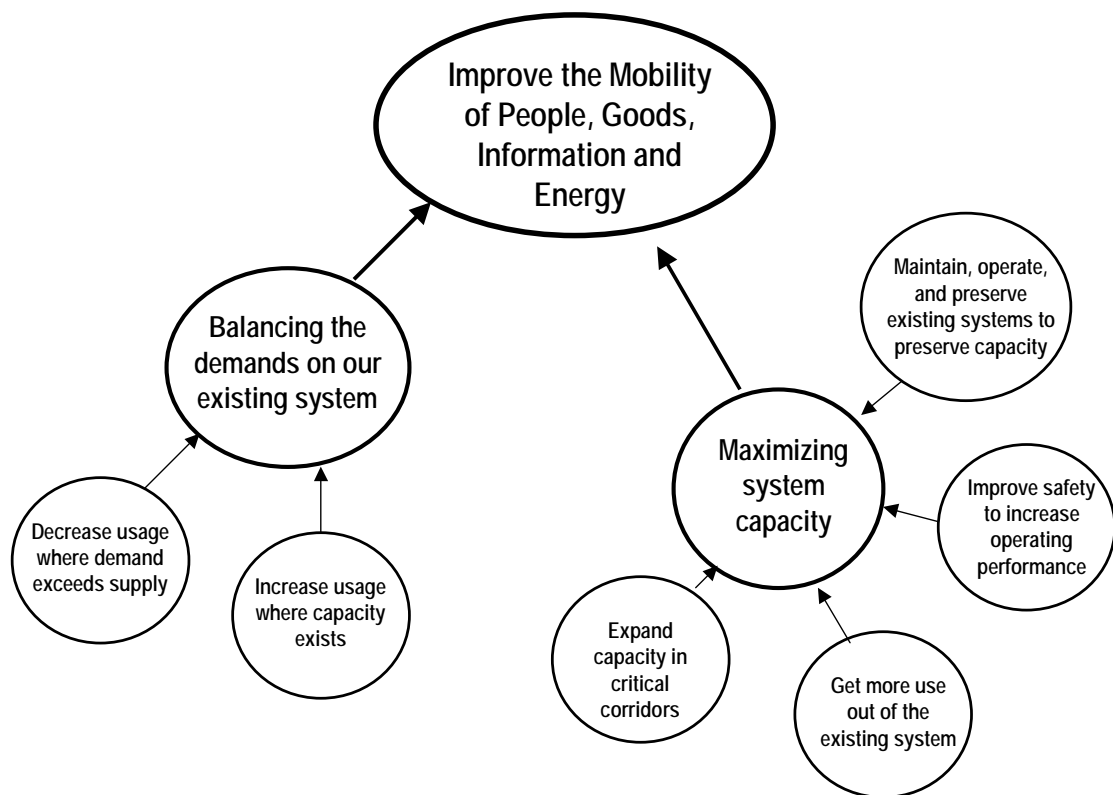
Indicators	Same, Modified, New?
<p>Improved internet connectivity at homes, businesses, schools.</p> <p><i>The growth in the number of connections to the internet by homes, businesses, and schools could be compared to the level of the connection (phone line, cable, etc.) and the cost to be connected to the internet. We are researching how to collect this data for particular urban and rural communities, which would provide a general picture of a community's connectedness. With this information comparisons could be made, and we could identify the things that are preventing infrastructure from being deployed and access improved.</i></p>	Modified.
<p>State energy prices compared to the national average.</p> <p><i>Energy prices in the state will be compared to the national average instead of household income.</i></p>	Modified
<p>The balance between demand for energy and the supply.</p> <p><i>Information on the balance between load (demand) to resources (supply) is currently used to determine if adequate resources exist and to project when the demand could exceed the supply. This information can be used to maximize the use of existing resources and to plan for new facilities that will increase the supply of energy.</i></p>	New
<p>Preserving the infrastructure</p> <p><i>Preserving the infrastructure can be measured by creating an index that measures the condition of bridges, roads, and vessels. This indicator was adopted because many state and local capital facilities are nearing the end of their useful lives and will need to be repaired or replaced. This will have a direct impact on moving freight efficiently, reducing travel time and congestion, improving safety, etc.</i></p>	New

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The indicators related to improving the throughput of energy and information have been changed to show how several related variables, when considered together do a better job of showing how the state is achieving results.

2. The Cause and Effect Map for the Result Area

The cause and effect map has been modified to provide a better description of “demand” and “capacity” and the factors that affect them. The strategies have not been changed.



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3. An initial assessment of the success or failure of current strategies

A. Does the current budget include funding for all of the significant strategies identified by the teams last time? Which strategies were not funded in the budget?

All of the strategies are funded at different levels in the current budget. New funding was provided to improve the mobility of people and goods.

Moving Information and Energy

Energy-related strategies receive little general fund state money, but rely primarily on ratepayer funding, non-fiscal changes in law or regulation, and advocacy for and against certain federal policies. This is true as well for information and telecommunications infrastructure strategies, with the significant exception of the state government and K-20 educational networks.

Mobility of People and Goods

In 2003 the gas tax was increased with the majority of the new funds going to highway and road projects. As a result, most of the impact has been on the strategy to maximize system capacity.

B. Looking at the performance and indicator information available to you at this time, how would you describe progress in achieving this result?

Moving Information and Energy

Progress in achieving improved energy supply has been incremental but steady. For example, in the area of energy conservation, state law has required since 2001 that planning for all new public buildings funded with state dollars include energy efficiency reviews. The Department of General Administration estimates these reviews will save up to \$500 million over 20 years.

In the area of increasing energy supply, the Governor pushed new standards for siting energy facilities that will decrease permitting times by as much as a year. The Legislature put these new standards in statute this year.

The deployment of telecommunications infrastructure has also been steady. The K-20 Network now connects all public K-12 school districts, educational service districts, community colleges and four-year institutions. Private infrastructure investment in urban areas has been slow following years of over-investment. Public utilities in rural areas have made huge investments in telecommunications infrastructure following 2000 legislation giving them authority to provide wholesale services.

Mobility of People and Goods

Significant progress was made in expanding the capacity to move people and goods on highways through increased funding for highway construction, new ferries, safety improvements, rail, and public transit service.

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C. What are the most significant areas of success in this result area today?

Moving Information and Energy

For energy and information, see answer to B above.

Mobility of People and Goods

The increase in gas tax revenue.

D. Where do you see the most significant performance gaps? Do these gaps represent the failure of a strategy, the failure to fund a given strategy, or something else?

Moving Information and Energy

Performance gaps in energy are due in part to federal efforts to restructure energy markets that often conflict with longstanding state policy. Decisions by OMB and Congress have hampered efforts to upgrade transmission facilities in the Northwest. Within the state, private utilities are regulated by the WUTC, and must meet certain least-cost planning requirements and other obligations. Public utilities, however, are subject to local elected officials.

Another gap may be funding of classroom connections to the K-20 network. The network is now connected to 296 school districts (two don't want it), but the districts themselves are responsible for connecting their school buildings and classrooms.

Mobility of People and Goods

The additional gas tax revenue provided the means to increase the capacity to move people and goods. At the same time, the existing infrastructure is reaching the end of its useful life and must be repaired or replaced. Thus, the challenge is finding a balance between investing in activities that increase capacity, maximizing the use of the current system, and preserve the existing system.

E. Where are the most significant opportunities to improve results?

Moving Information and Energy

Progress in the areas of information and energy has been steady. We believe that with changes in the indicators (see above), continuation of current policies, and identifying new opportunities, we will continue to see steady improvement in these areas.

Mobility of People and Goods

The focus should be on preserving the existing system and matching planned improvements on the state system with improvements on local roads, transit, and rail.